any official of the CBI or AIR or Doordarshan does not arise.

Commission received by Concord International from Sumitomo Corporation

793. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Times of India of 15th September, 1988 to the effect that Shri Vinod Khanna of Concord International had received commission of about Rs. 8.5 crores from Sumitomo Corporation during 1985 and 1986 for winning the contract for supplying to ONGC and Gas Authority of India with heavy electrical machinery for HBJ Pipeline Project and that payment in foreign exchange was made to a front company in Panama which paid to a firm in London from where it went to Shri Khanna in Mauritius via West Germany; and

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof and when these irregularities came to Government's notice and what action has been taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Consequent upon search action taken against Concord International, Delhi, a company of Mr. Vinod Kumar Khanna, by Income-tax Deptt. on 5-2-87, certain incriminating documents indicating that the company had received approximately Japanese Yen 525 million and US $ 2 million (about Rs. 8.5 crores) worth of commission from M/s. Sumitomo Corpn. Japan, which was not repatriated to India Based on the above facts that an amount of Rs. 8.5 crores had not been repatriated to India in contravention of the provisions of the FERA, the Directorate of Enforcement have initiated invesigations into the matter.

"Study conducted by the centre on the effect of Chloro Sulphonic acid on human beings"

794. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the senior officers of the Government of India from the Department of Environment visited Bhopal to study the effects of Chloro sulphonic acid on human beings which leaked from the Bhopal based pesticides plant of Union Carbide of India Limited;

(b) whether the study was conducted during the first week of September this year when the fresh leakage of toxic chloro sulphonic acid from the plant was noticed; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the report of the Central Study Team?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. After leakage of chloro sulphonic acid was noticed in one of the storage tanks in the Union Carbide India Ltd. (UCIL), Bhopal in June, 1988, some senior officers of the Government of India had visited the plant several times both to assess the impact of the leakage of the chloro sulphonic acid and to advise on its neutralisation and monitor the disposal of the decomposed material. The decomposition and neutralisation of the left-over CSA sludge from all the three tanks was completed in the first week of September, 1988.